THE MYSORE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Dated 6th December 1911.

The following note on 'Village Schools in Mysore' is published for general information.

By Order,
C. KRISHNA RAU,
Secretary.

VILLAGE SCHOOLS IN MYSORE.

1. There are in the State a total number of 16,784 villages. If, by the usual mode of reckoning, 15 per cent of the entire population be taken as comprising boys of school-going age, it will be seen that every village that has a population of 200 can contribute 30 pupils for a school. If these and smaller villages be considered too small to have schools of their own, a village with a population of 300 may safely be taken as deserving a school. There are in Mysore 4,609 such villages. Of these, only 1,751 have the advantage of having a departmental or an aided school. Among other villages there are 1,876 which have unaided private schools. There are, therefore, yet 982 large villages which are not blessed with a school of any kind whatever.

2. Among the villages which are provided with departmental schools there are several in which the attendance can be easily improved without any addition to the staff or to the building. Out of 834 schools in the four districts comprising the Bangalore Circle, the returns from which for a certain month have been examined, there are 105 schools which have on their rolls fewer than 20 pupils, and 334 which have on their rolls between 29 and 30 pupils. With this may be compared the average number of pupils in a Boys' Primary School elsewhere, which is 32 in Madras, 54 in Bombay, and 67 in the Central Provinces. The average attendance in 98 schools is less than 10, in 118 schools between 10 and 15 and in 346 schools between 15 and 25. Other returns received from some of these schools show that there are in the villages in which these schools are situated several children that ought to be in the school but are not there. With a little exertion on the part of the teacher, the village officials, and school committees, the strength and attendance of these schools can be greatly improved.

3. In the case of children that help their parents in industrial pursuits or are engaged in wage-earning occupations, a little adjustment of the working hours of the school to suit local and seasonal requirements may go a great way towards improving school attendance. While in Japan 4 pupils out of 5 of school-going age are under instruction, there is only one out of 39 such pupils under instruction in Mysore. While the average number of villages served by a Boys' Primary School is 2·6 in Madras, 4·3 in Bombay and 4·4 in Bengal, the average number of villages served by a public village school in Mysore is 9·5. While the number of square miles served by a Boys' Primary School is 6·6 in Madras and 3·7 in Bengal, the number of square miles for which there is a village school in Mysore is 8. While in Baroda 78·5 per cent. of boys, 48·7 per cent. of girls and 8·4 per cent. of the total population are under instruction, the corresponding figures for Mysore are 28·4, 5·2 and 2·3.

4. If a suitable building (one consisting of a single room measuring 15' by 22' with a veranda 7' wide is considered most convenient) be provided, one teacher can easily manage a Lower Primary School attended by 40 children. There is thus scope not only for establishing new schools where none exist but also for improving the attendance in the case of existing schools.

5. The following suggestions are offered for the guidance of those interested in and are responsible for securing from these useful institutions the maximum advantage derivable from them.

(*a*) WHAT THE VILLAGERS CAN DO.

(1) They can erect commodious and well ventilated school houses where required.

(2) They can maintain the school house in proper repair.

(3) They can whitewash the building at least twice a year.

(4) They can help the teacher in maintaining a school garden and in procuring such inexpensive materials as he may require to make school lessons attractive as well as useful.

(5) They can send children to school punctually and regularly.

(*b*) WHAT THE TEACHER CAN DO.

(1) He can make the school house attractive by keeping it tidy by decorating the walls with pictures and specimens of the best written work of the pupils, and by maintaining a school garden.

(2) He can secure the interest of the pupils by making his teaching realistic, by providing himself with suitable illustrative material for his lessons and by joining the boys in organised games.

(3) He can talk to the parents that do not send their children to school or fail to send them regularly.

(4) He can secure the sympathy of villagers by visiting pupils when they are reported to be ill and inquiring after their health.

(*c*) WHAT THE VILLAGE OFFICIALS AND THE MEMBERS OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES CAN DO.

(1) They can pay regular visits to the school by turns and check attendance.

(2) They can call upon negligent parents to send their children regularly to school.

(3) They can see that the children are properly dressed and that none suffering from infectious diseases are allowed to attend school.

(4) They can see that a statement showing the number of boys and girls of school going age in the village, the number on roll in each class of the school, the dimensions of each class room and the number of pupils that can be accommodated in it allowing 8 square feet of floor space for each pupil, is always hung on the wall in a conspicuous place.

(5) They can render such help as the teacher may need in keeping the building and the premises clean and tidy and in procuring suitable illustrative material for his lessons.

(6) They can inquire into and settle any disputes that may arise between the teachers and the villagers.

6. It is hoped that a careful consideration of the points dwelt on in this short note will show that an earnest effort has yet to be made to utilise to their fullest extent the facilities already provided for the spread of Elementary Education.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. B. & R. 32, *dated* 14*th July* 1911.

From this date until further notice, applications from the public will be received in the undermentioned Treasuries for issue of supply bills on the Treasuries noted against each :—

1. Mysore District Treasury—
   (1) District Treasury, Bangalore.
   (2) District Treasury, Kolar.
   (3) District Treasury, Shimoga

2. Bangalore District Treasury—
   (1) District Treasury, Kolar.
   (2) District Treasury, Shimoga.

3. Chitaldrug District Treasury—
   Bangalore District Treasury.

2. Each application should contain the following particulars :—
   (1) Amount for which supply bill is required,
   (2) Name of Treasury at which payment is required, and
   (3) Name and address of the applicant for supply bill;

and should be sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Treasury Department concerned, together with the amount for which bills are required and the amount of the commission at 1/8 per cent.

3. No supply bill will be issued for less than Rs. 500.

4. The undermentioned Taluk Treasuries have also been authorized to receive applications for issue of supply bills :—

Mysore District—
   (1) Hunsur.
   (2) Seringapatam.
   (3) Nanjangud.
   (4) T.-Narsipur.
   (5) Chamrajnagar.

Chitaldrug District—
   (6) Davangere.